UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/495
26 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

# LETTER DATED 26 JUNE 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the attached letters addressed to me by the President of the Republic of the Congo, Mr. Pascal Lissouba, and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, on the question of the deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville.

I should be grateful if you would be kind enough to bring these letters to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-17619 (E) 260697

/...

Annex I

[Original: French]

Letter dated 24 June 1997 from the President of the Congo addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to recall our conversation and, more particularly, the information which I gave you about the risks of destabilization facing my country, in the light of which I requested your assistance at Harare.

The Congo therefore awaits with interest and impatience any action that might be taken in response to the request by the International Mediation Committee, headed by President Omar Bongo, Head of State of Gabon - a request which I firmly support - for the deployment of an inter-African peacekeeping force and, in particular, for:

- the securing of polling stations during the presidential elections;

- the decommissioning of weapons, particularly the neutralization of heavy weapons.

I am counting on the Security Council to respond promptly to this request and wish to convey to you the thanks of the entire Congolese people and the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Pascal LISSOUBA

Annex II

[Original: English]

Letter dated 23 June 1997 from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution met this afternoon to consider the prevailing situation in the Republic of the Congo. The session especially focused on the need to maintain and consolidate the ceasefire in Brazzaville and to create conditions for a political solution to the crisis. In this respect, the Central Organ specifically considered the initiative of President Omar Bongo of the Republic of Gabon requesting the Security Council to authorize a speedy deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville.

I am sending you herewith a copy of the communiqué issued by the Central Organ at the end of its deliberations. As you would note, the Central Organ fully supported the request by President Bongo. In this connection, I wish to highlight especially the following paragraphs of the communiqué:

"Reiterated its appeal for the establishment and maintenance of a lasting ceasefire, and called on the parties to exercise maximum restraint;

"Fully supported the request by the President of Gabon on behalf of the International Mediation Committee for the Security Council to authorize the rapid deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville, and requested the Security Council to facilitate such a deployment without delay;

"Appealed to all African States, especially those with the relevant capability, to make available contingents which can serve as part of the proposed inter-African force, or provide logistical support for such a force;

"Called on the parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with the International Mediation Committee and with the force by, inter alia, committing themselves to a ceasefire and to a political solution to the dispute;

"Requested the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake urgent consultations within and outside Africa to ensure maximum support for the implementation of this initiative."

I should be grateful if you would bring the contents of the present letter and the attached communiqué to the attention of the President and members of the Security Council. I would further appreciate it if you would have them circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Salim Ahmed SALIM

Enclosure

Communiqué issued by the thirty-fourth ordinary session of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, at the ambassadorial level, held on 23 June 1997

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution met at ambassadorial level, at Addis Ababa, on 23 June 1997 at 15.00 hours to examine the serious situation prevailing in the Republic of the Congo and the efforts deployed so far to resolve the crisis. The session was held under the chairmanship of Mr. T. A. G. Makombe, the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the OAU and representative of the current Chairman.

The Central Organ was extensively briefed by the Secretary-General on the outcome of the recent meeting of the International Mediation Committee and the communication sent by Mr. El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Republic of Gabon, to the current Chairman of OAU and the Secretary-General, as well as to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the situation in the Republic of the Congo, and, in particular, the request for the deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Congo to OAU also apprised the session of the latest situation in his country.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ:

Reiterated its appeal for the establishment and maintenance of a lasting ceasefire, and called on the parties to exercise maximum restraint;

Reaffirmed its full support for the efforts being made by the International Mediation Committee under the leadership of President Omar Bongo of the Republic of Gabon;

Fully supported the request by the President of Gabon on behalf of the International Mediation Committee for the Security Council to authorize the rapid deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville, and requested the Security Council to facilitate such a deployment without delay;

Appealed to all African States, especially those with the relevant capability, to make available contingents which can serve as part of the proposed inter-African force, or provide logistical support for such a force;

Called on the parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with the International Mediation Committee and with the force by, inter alia, committing themselves to a ceasefire and to a political solution to the dispute;

Requested the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake urgent consultations within and outside Africa to ensure maximum support for the implementation of this initiative;

Expressed deep appreciation to the humanitarian agencies for the work they are doing under extremely difficult circumstances, and appealed to the international community to extend urgent humanitarian assistance to all those in need;

Decided to remain seized of the crisis in the Republic of the Congo, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to monitor very closely the developments in that country.

---